

BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

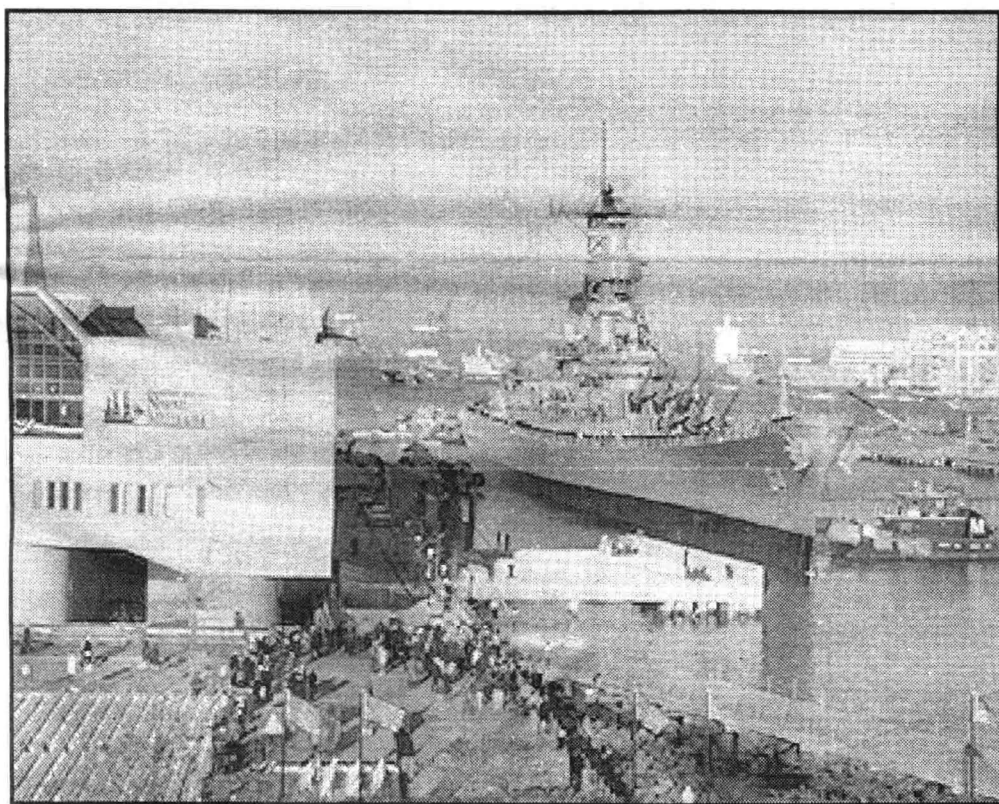
For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

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Portage WI 53901**Vol. 30 No. 12 • 368th Consecutive Monthly Issue • Baraboo, Wisconsin • December 2000****SPECIAL EVENT STATION
N4WIS HONORS U.S.S.
WISCONSIN (BB 64)**

By Bus Etheridge, K4IX

Special to Badger State Smoke Signals

The USS *Wisconsin* is moved into place at Norfolk's Nauticus Naval Museum. The *Wisconsin* is the largest battleship ever built by the United States, and is nearly three times longer than a football field. Special Event Station N4WIS helped welcome her to the museum.

Photo by Ron Young, W8RJL

This is the story of a special event station honoring the decommissioned battleship U.S.S. Wisconsin. As most Wisconsinites know, the ship is now on display at the Nauticus in Norfolk, VA. The Navy, however, has retained possession of the ship should she need to be commissioned again. She served the U.S. in WW II, the Korean War, and the Gulf War.

The N4WIS operation very nearly did not happen, until things started to fall into place at the "11th hour". Bus Etheridge, K4IX, a ham for 63 years, tells the story.

N4WIS and how it came to happen is a long story. When we learned that Norfolk was going to get the *Wisconsin* (in competition with other applicants), I and several others thought it would be nice to try to put a station on the warship. It was discussed at our VaDXCC meeting and since I was interested, I was put in charge. The DX Club has a club call. I suggested we make it a separate club to be able to obtain a distinctive call. I founded the club by writing a consti-

tution and calling a meeting. The Constitution was adopted and we elected officers and were sort of in business. I am President (until December 31), VP is Ron Young, W8RJL; Secretary is Jack Main W4YCZ; Treasurer is Al Bianchi K4UX; and Trustee is Carey Brown, KT4P. We started on June 10, 2000, my birthday (age 78).

Carey applied for a license obtaining a common issue next-in-sequence thing, then applied for N4WIS which was open. W4WIS was also up for grabs but I insisted that all Navy ships and shore stations had calls starting with letter "N".

The club's constitution calls for two classes of membership, full and associate. To be able to have a quorum and conduct meetings, we only ask people who can attend meetings and carry the work to be full members. There is no stigma attached to being an associate member, it recognizes folks who want to help support the club but who are unable to be present at business meetings.

Please turn to page 4

Happy Holidays*from**Badger State Smoke Signals!***FCC Seeks to Require FCC
Registration Number**

The FCC has proposed requiring everyone it does business with obtain and use an FCC Registration Number—or FRN. Many amateurs registered with the Universal Licensing System already have been assigned a 10-digit FRN by the Commission Registration System—or CORES. The FCC has not made its use mandatory, however.

The FCC says requiring individuals and entities to obtain an FRN will help it to better track and manage the collection of fees. The FCC proposes requiring that FRNs be provided with any filings that require payment of a fee, such as the vanity fee for amateurs. FCC Form 159 has been modified to accommodate this requirement, the FCC says.

The FCC is proposing to reject filings requiring an FRN that do not include the number. "These proposed rules would make the use of the FRN mandatory in certain circumstances so that anyone not yet assigned an FRN or who has not yet obtained one must obtain one," the FCC said in its

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (MD Docket 00-205), released December 1.

An individual does not have to hold an FCC license to obtain an FRN.

The FCC says the information collected by CORES includes the "entity name and type," Taxpayer Identification Number or TIN—typically a Social Security Number for an individual, contact address and e-mail address. CORES information is not made public.

Comments on the FCC rulemaking notice are due 30 days from the date of publication in *The Federal Register*. Reply comments are due by 45 days from the date of publication.

The FCC began implementing CORES earlier this year. CORES registration eventually will replace Universal Licensing System, or ULS, registration. More information on CORES is available by visiting the FCC Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov> and clicking on the CORES registration link.

ARRL Bulletin 048

FLIPPING THE PAGES

What's Happening: Edited by Ken Ebner, K9EN and Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ	2
Edward Rice, W9NGP, SK - Richard Regent, K9GDF	5
Editorial	5
High-Tech Hunting	5
The Computer Corner - Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR: No. 85: File Extensions	6
CB Enforcement Bill Signed	6
ManCoRad Radio Club	7
Wisconsin Nets Association	7
Racine Megacycle Club	7
Lakeshore Repeater Association	8
Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club	8
New Plates for Hams in January	8
New Products	8
Quarter Century Wireless Association/Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162	9
Wisconsin Valley Radio Association	9
The Wisconsin Packeteer	10
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club	11



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Swapfests and Other Social Events — Club Meetings Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebnetter@palacenet.net

Swapfests And Other Social Events

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2001 29th Annual Midwinter Swapfest Waukesha Exposition Center Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club <http://www.WARAC.org>

FEBRUARY 27, 2001 Red Cedar Repeater Association Auction American Legion Post 53 634 Water St., Eau Claire WI Information: Steve Hart, KA9OMC (715) 665-2374.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2001 SEWFARS Swapfest Waukesha Expo Center 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Setup starts at 6 a.m. Talkin: 146.82 PL 127.3 Reservation deadline: February 23, 2001 Info: (262) 835-7035

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2001 Wisconsin QSO Party Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club <http://www.WARAC.org>

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2001 Hamfest 2001 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jefferson County Fairgrounds Activity Center, Hwy. 18 West Jefferson, WI Sponsored by Tri-County ARC Talkin on 145.49 repeater Info: TCARC, 213 Frederick Street, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 (920)

563-6381 evenings (920) 563-9551 (FAX) tri-countyarc@globaldialog.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2001 NS9RCfest Formerly LAMARSfest Lake County Fairgrounds Grayslake, IL Sponsored by North Shore Radio Club, Box 1066, Highland Park IL 60035 <http://www.ns9rc.org>
SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2001 Madison Swapfest Mandt Community Center 400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton, WI Doors open at 8 a.m. Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY P. O. Box 8890, Madison WI 53708-8890 Info Line: (608) 245-8890

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2001 Ozaukee Radio and Computer Swapfest 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Circle B Recreation Center, Intersection of Highway 60 and County Y Info: Ozaukee Radio Club W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive Cedarburg, WI 53012

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2001 Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2001 Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire WI 54702-1867 Web: <http://www.ecarc.org> Email: w9eau@ecarc.org

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2001 Hamfest 01 South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club American Legion Park, Oak Creek Info: Verne at (414) 762-3235
SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2001 Circus City Swapfest Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo, WI 7:00 a.m. until noon Sponsored by Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club Info: <http://members.baraboo.com/ssschulze/hamfest.htm>

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AND 23 Radio Expo 2001 Lake County Fairgrounds,

Rts. 45 and 120 Grayslake, Illinois Info: Voice mail and FAX - (708) 457-0966 <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

As a service to our readers, this section is available without charge to list your upcoming swapfest, hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to kebnetter@palacenet.net.



CLUB MEETINGS

To send meeting notices and changes: kebnetter@palacenet.net.

ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Superior, WI

Meetings: Second Tuesday at WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st St., Superior, WI. Time: 7:30 p.m. Board meetings held before regular meetings.

BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT

Meetings: First Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in UW Union South. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608) 263-4685. Email: w9ixg@arri.org. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/w9yt>.

BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS)

Check BATS Web page: <http://www.shopstop.net/BATS/>

CENTRAL WISCONSIN RADIO AMATEURS
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, WI Second Wednesday.

EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Eau Claire, Wisconsin Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. W9EAU repeater 146.91 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, (715) 838-9108, or kg9ra@ecarc.org Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Menomonee Falls, WI

Meetings: Last Wednesdays at Bank One building in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome!

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Fond du Lac, WI Meetings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Information: Gene Olig, KD9ZP, gaolig@pitnet.net Web: <http://personal.pitnet.net/FDLHAMS/>

FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Madison, WI

Meetings: First and third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Third Mondays, 7 p.m., Madison Junior High School, 2020 South Carpenter Avenue, Appleton, WI. Information: Chad at (414) 993-0485.

GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION

Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz,

Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN. 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560. kebnetter@palacenet.net

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EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX; Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ.

Subscription Rate

1 year	(12 issues)	\$13.95
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Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. THIS CREDIT IS MANDATORY, AND NO MATERIAL MAY BE PRINTED OR POSTED UNLESS IT IS GIVEN.

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Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-for-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

K9GS, (414) 363-4439. Email: garyk9gs@solaria.sol.net. Packet cluster NB9C for meeting information

GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB

Meetings: Second Thursdays, Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere.

GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Greater Green Lake County area. Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION

Racine, WI Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. New meeting location to be announced. M & M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Menomonie, MI

General meetings: Monthly, second Thursday, 7 p.m., cafeteria, BAMC basement, Tenth Avenue, Menominee, MI. Amateurs and guests welcome. Repeater: 147.00, + offset, Sunday net: 7 p.m., 147.00 repeater. Address: P.O. Box 1082, Marinette, MI 54143.

MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad)

Second Wednesdays of each month except June-August, when no meetings are held.

Regular meeting: 7:30 p.m., Associated Bank, lower level, 1000 Franklin St., Manitowoc, WI. Located right next to the Manitowoc River in the downtown area. Additional information: Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: fredw6bsf@lakefield.net.

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB

Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Address: P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac> Email: w9rh@arrl.net

NORTHLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of SHELL LAKE, WI

Meetings: First Tuesday at the Shell Lake United Methodist Church, Reinhart Drive, Shell Lake, WI. Meeting time: 7 p.m. More information: <http://home.centurytel.net/NorthlandARC/>

NORTHWOODS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Rhinelander, WI

Meetings: Third Tuesdays. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting 7:30 p.m. South Park School, Rhinelander. Talk-in 146.94 (-600). All visitors welcome.

OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB

Ozaukee County area, WI Meetings: Second Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center. Information: <http://www.qsl.net/orc>.

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA)

Wisconsin Chapter 55
Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact Ron Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N.Pt Washington Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774. mailto:rryokes@execpc.com

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA)

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162
Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m., usually at Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events: Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and October. Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in December.

RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB

Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., New meeting location to be announced.

RADIO AMATEURS OF WISCONSIN (R.A.W.) Oshkosh, WI

Meetings: Third Saturday monthly, locations vary. "R.A.W. is a family oriented club. Most of its meetings revolve around family doings and outings. We are always looking for good people to join us.

If you are a ham or interested in ham radio, contact

Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662, or Duane Ritschke, W9UDX, (920) 233-1684.

RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

Saturday coffee at Hardee's in North Monomonic, corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Peppermill Too, 1414 9th Street in the L-Mart Shopping Center in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Onalaska, WI Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Onalaska Community Center.

ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7277 KHz, 10:30 a.m.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Second Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Sheboygan County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie Avenue.

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post 434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. Auctions in March and October.

SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER

No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus. Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email: n9uw@sal.wisc.edu

St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS

Hudson, WI
Meetings: Third Tuesdays, St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, Carmichael Road, Hudson. Short business meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by program. Talkin: 145.13 MHz. All are welcome!

CLUB (TCAARC)

Medford, WI
Meetings: Usually first Thursday, 7 p.m. sharp
Usual location: Emergency Government meeting room/Red Cross Office, basement of Sheriff's Annex to Taylor County Courthouse, 2nd and Ogden Streets, Medford. Talkin: 147.15 (+600) MHz. Amateurs and guests are welcome. ARES Net: Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m., 147.15 (+600) repeater. Information: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Held at members' homes. Usually monthly on Sunday afternoon. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, (414) 563-6502, or John Satterlee, (414) 5563-6381.

WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Courthouse. Net: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., 146.73 (-600).

WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m., Watertown Public Library, 100 South Water Street.

WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

"CQ First Tue.": Social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted.

"CQ Third Fri.": Social gathering and Dutch treat dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB

Meetings: Second Tuesdays, 8 p.m., St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 7929 Lincoln Avenue, entrance is at rear of building on alley. Information: <http://www.warac.org>.

warac.org.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meetings: Third Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Room 14 of Wood County Courthouse. Talkin: 146.79 (-600) for entry into the building.

WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION

Wausau, WI
Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Location varies. Information: 146.64 (-600).

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS

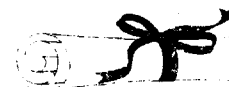
Quarterly meetings of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters are held at various locations around the State on the second Saturdays of March, June, September and December. Check the WAR web page for meeting announcements and repeater coordination info. Information: <http://www.wi-repeaters.org>.

YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Baraboo, WI Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Room 18, Baraboo Civic Center at 124 Second Street. Information: <http://members.baraboo.com/sschulze>

Notice: We are not liable for any errors, omissions, typographical errors, or misprints. Clubs are responsible for furnishing any changes or corrections which may be needed!

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

December 02, 2000 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
December 02, 2000 Racine, WI
December 02, 2000 St. Paul, MN
December 02, 2000 Eau Claire, WI
December 09, 2000 Blaine, MN

December 14, 2000 Apple Valley, MN
December 16, 2000 Cottage Grove, MN
December 16, 2000 Loves Park, IL
December 16, 2000 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
December 19, 2000 Eden Prairie, MN
December 23, 2000 Bloomington, MN
January 06, 2001 Racine, WI
January 06, 2001 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
January 06, 2001 St. Paul, MN
January 11, 2001 Apple Valley, MN
January 13, 2001 Madison, WI
January 13, 2001 Eau Claire, WI
January 13, 2001 Blaine, MN
January 16, 2001 Eden Prairie, MN
January 20, 2001 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
January 20, 2001 Loves Park, IL
January 20, 2001 Cottage Grove, MN
January 27, 2001 Bloomington, MN
January 27, 2001 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
January 27, 2001 Appleton, WI
January 27, 2001 Tomahawk, WI
February 03, 2001 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
February 03, 2001 St. Paul, MN
February 08, 2001 Apple Valley, MN
February 10, 2001 Eau Claire, WI
February 10, 2001 Madison, WI
February 10, 2001 Blaine, MN
February 17, 2001 Milwaukee WI (BE)
February 17, 2001 Loves Park, IL
February 17, 2001 Cottage Grove, MN
February 20, 2001 Eden Prairie, MN
February 24, 2001 Bloomington, MN
February 24, 2001 Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 24, 2001 Tomahawk, WI
March 03, 2001 Oshkosh (Omro), WI
March 03, 2001 St. Paul, MN
March 08, 2001 Apple Valley, MN
March 10, 2001 Madison, WI
March 10, 2001 Blaine, MN
March 17, 2001 Milwaukee, WI (BE)
March 17, 2001 Loves Park, IL
March 17, 2001 Cottage Grove, MN

(continued on page 11)

N4WIS HONORS U.S.S. Wisconsin

Continued from front page

We have not assessed any dues but have passed the hat and have about a hundred dollars to cover such items as postage until we get serious about raising some money. That's how it started.

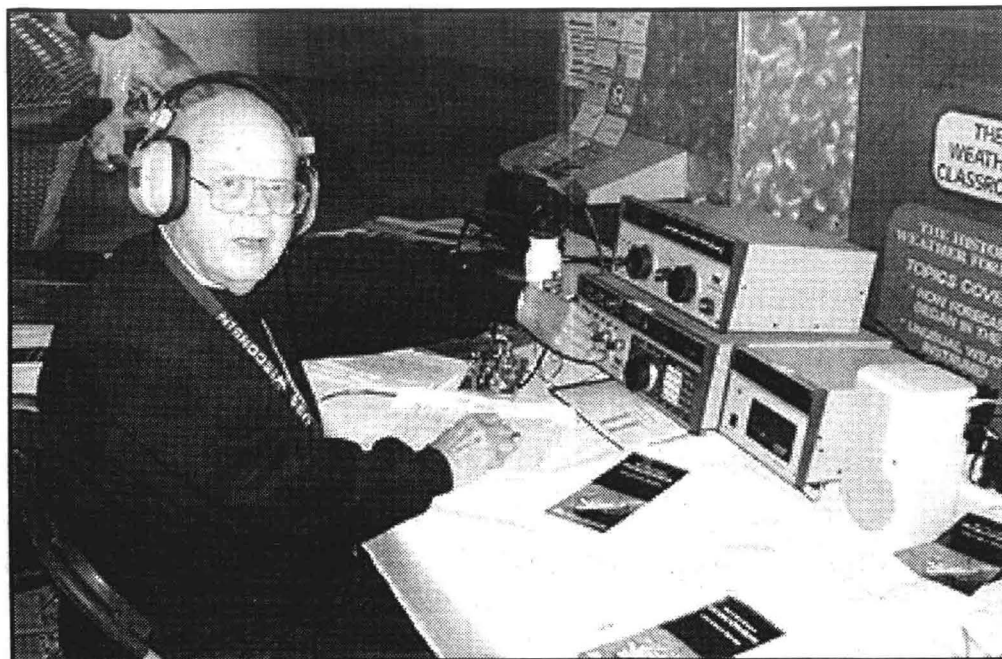
We have been meeting once a month for lunch. We have not pushed for members as it can easily get out of hand at this stage. We have fifty on the roll, which is enough for a start. We expect to throw open the associate membership roll and expect a lot of out of town hams and ex-Navy radiomen and interested parties, whether they are hams or not.

We did not know how to go about getting permission to get a station on board. I wrote a personal letter to a retired Admiral who is the head man of the USS Wisconsin Foundation saying we had something to offer which would benefit the City, the Navy, Nauticus, etc. I emphasized the historic connection of Amateur Radio operators with the military going back to World War I and the hams who enlisted to key those early spark rigs. I pointed out that literally thousands of hams served during World War II as radiomen, communications officers,

electronics maintenance people, etc. I was an Electronics Maintenance Officer in the Navy during WW II and the Korean War.

I asked for an appointment to meet with him. We have 3 Navy Captains in our club, and we were ready to present our case. I included my personal check as a contribution to the Foundation. Weeks went by and I heard nothing. A couple more weeks went by. We were getting close to the end of November, with the ship due in on Pearl Harbor Day. I finally received an acknowledgment for my contribution signed by the Mayor and the Admiral. He wrote by his signature, "I'll phone you." I listened for that phone call which has never come. We announced that we were doing a Special Event and we were going ahead as the club station even if we had to run it from our home stations under the club license. I was disappointed and discouraged because we had no contact with those in charge. To be honest, I said a couple of prayers basically to ask for some help.

Bingo! A couple of days later, we got a phone call from a guy who works at Nauticus who is a ham. By the way, Nauticus is our National Maritime Center where the Navy Museum is located. It is in downtown



Bus Etheridge, K4IX, is shown operating during the four-day special event operation of N4WIS.

Photo by Ron Young, W8RJL

Norfolk on the waterfront, built by the City of Norfolk as a tourist attraction. It has a dock on each side. One was especially dredged out and designed to provide the USS Wisconsin a permanent berth.

The ham, Charlie Lowrance, WA4-MCK, talked with his boss and thought it

would be nice to have a special event station there in Nauticus for the arrival of the Wisconsin. Then he suddenly discovered us on November 29th, our first contact besides my letter to the Admiral. We suddenly got an invitation to set up, subject to their stipulations. We had hoped to be inside Nauticus to be out of the weather, by the way. We hoped for a one-day event on December 7th. Charlie's boss wanted us there for *four* days, December 7 thru 10. He wanted four hams to be there each day, but not more than four would be allowed security passes.

We were not sure we could man the station with the necessary people, but we have so far (the operation is in progress as this is written) and we have operators lined up through Sunday afternoon.

About six of us were up on the roof of Nauticus Monday morning with a little snow and ice that morning. We were out in the cold air for most of the day but succeeded in putting up two wire antennas which cover the higher bands. I was there at six a.m. the first morning and started running QSOs on 7035. The other guys arrived and we kept it going all day, CW and SSB HF plus a two meter station to give the locals a chance.

To cover more bands, several of our club members using N4WIS were giving contacts and had pileups on 20 SSB and CW. We also had one station on RTTY, one on PSK, and one using APRS.

You wonder why you had not heard about our event? We only found out eight days before the operation ourselves! The notice in December *QST* was entered several months ago on faith. It is not over yet, but there is great enthusiasm and it looks like we are off to a wonderful start. We were there when the tugs pushed the big hull into the slip. We were there when the old *Wisconsin* sailors ("shipmates") who rode the ship from the Navy Yard came ashore and when the sailors who had manned the rail and the sharp looking Marines who had stood in formation under the big guns came ashore single file through Nauticus. We were there for a big ceremony with many VIPs attending. We were able to operate without getting RF into the sound system (we had tested.)

The people at Nauticus are now talking about having us back on April 16, 2001, when the ship will be opened to the public. There is some talk of having us set up an exhibit and having a permanent place at Nauticus for our club.

A little prayer goes a long way. This is my story of how it all came about. We think there will be a lot more interesting opportunities now that the door has been opened. *The amazing thing is, they contacted us; they invited us to come!*

(BSSS hopes to run a followup in our January, 2001 issue. Thanks to Bus and to the photographers who shared their work and their experience with us. - K9ZZ)

29th ANNUAL MIDWINTER

Ham Radio, Computer, Electronics

SWAPFEST

SATURDAY

JANUARY 6, 2001

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

WAUKESHA COUNTY EXPO CENTER FORUM
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

ADMISSION: \$4.00 Advance - \$5.00 at Door

RESERVED TABLES: \$12.00 per 8 foot table - \$14.00 at Door (if available)

ELECTRICAL OUTLET: \$13.00 (advance only)

AMATEUR EXAMS: (Location - AMF Waukesha Lanes, across from Expo)

**Bring your original license with photocopy, CSCES
with 2 photocopies and two IDs (one must be photo ID)**

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_____ @ \$13.00 = _____

Total Enclosed

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P. O. BOX 1072
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Waukesha County Expo Center Location



Edward F. Rice, W9NGP, SK

by Richard Regent, K9GDF

Edward F. Rice, W9NGP, of Oconomowoc, passed away from complications of Parkinson's disease on November 24, 2000. Born on October 11, 1923, Ed was 77 years old.

During World War II, Ed was a United States Navy shipboard radio operator and technician, and after the war he enrolled in the engineering school at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He earned his way through the University repairing radios and TVs and also worked as a broadcast engineer at WHA, the University of Wisconsin's FM radio station. Ed was licensed as an Amateur Radio Operator W9NGP in 1947. Mr. Rice received his B.S. degree in 1950 and began teaching 8th and 9th grade mathematics and algebra at Waukesha High School. While teaching full time, he later started an electronic servicing business.

In 1958 *Professor Rice*, as he was often called by students at the *Milwaukee Vocational and Adults Schools* (later to be called the *Milwaukee Area Technical College*), taught electronics, radio and television theory and servicing. *Professor Rice* taught Associate Degree Electronics courses in photo instrumentation and electronic technology, until his retirement in 1988 at the age of 65. Many of the thousands of students he taught are now working throughout the world in all areas of electronics, including medical instrumentation, color television, college teaching and electronic circuitry design. Ed regularly served the community as an industry consultant on electronic servicing problems.

Two of Mr. Rice's books are the *Radio Service Training Manual* and the *Television Service Training Manual*. These books are unique because they use programmed Servicing Charts - isolation procedures leading to finding the cause of a symptom. Ed knew from experience the effects that a defective component had on the operation of other parts of a receiver. His procedures eliminated entire sections of the suspected circuitry with a minimum of tests. It wasn't until recently that Doctors of Medicine discovered the effectiveness of using similar decision flow charts to find causes and diagnose symptoms of disease and sickness.

Ed helped countless newcomers, to study for their license and become Amateur Radio operators, like W9CHD and K9MKC. W9NGP, Advanced Class license, was an ARRL member, Official Relay Station and active in traffic handling. For many years W9NGP was the Wednesday Net Control Station for WIN, a Wisconsin CW net, and then became WIN Late Net Manager. Also, Ed frequently attended Wisconsin Net Association meetings, was a Quarter Century Wireless Association member and enjoyed Wisconsin QCWA Chapter 55 get-togethers. On-the-air, Ed enjoyed being active with the QRP and the Rag Chewers Clubs.

Ed is survived by his wife Shirley, his five sons Edward, Richard, Paul, John, David and daughter Robin.

Ed's license doesn't expire for another six years, plenty of time for Ed to set up and test some new antennas up there. But I guess he won't need a license or a tower. If I close my eyes I can still hear Ed's smooth relaxed voice, even without a radio. Best regards, Ed, W9NGP.

Rich, K9GDF

From the editor:**A piece of my mind - and I can't spare much**

✱ The bill which began a few years as the "Feingold CB RFI Bill" is now the law of the land. President William Jefferson Clinton signed it into law recently.

Wisconsin's junior senator, Russ Feingold, first proposed this legislation in response to citizen complaints about overpowered CB stations causing interference to neighbor's electronic equipment. That ignores the fact that consumer electronic equipment pretty much qualifies as junk, as it should not be susceptible to RFI in the first place. Manufacturers won't add a couple of dollars worth of parts to make their equipment more "proof" against unwanted RF intrusions. But the FCC was and still unable to respond to those complaints. It would require a major staff increase. So, the "Feingold" law was the easy way out.

This law, PL 106-521, exempts radio amateurs from its provisions. The Feingold office did work with the ARRL on the bill.

The bill gives local authorities the legal right to fine, arrest, whatever they may wish, CB scofflaws.

When the effort toward enacting such legislation began, a Fox Valley amateur wrote Senator Feingold about his concerns about possible abuses during enforcement efforts granted to local governmental entities, citing the fact that those entities are not likely to be technically qualified at the technical level. In other words, they are probably not going to be competent to make the right decisions in each RFI complaint case. The amateur was correct a few years ago, and he still is.

Feingold's office responded, saying if the local police show up at an amateur's door with a CB RFI complaint, all the amateur need do is to produce a valid Amateur Radio license. That is supposed to be *de facto* proof that (1) a radio amateur is truly a radio amateur, not a CB scofflaw, and (2) production of that license is supposed to make the local law enforcement people go away, accepting the license as proof.

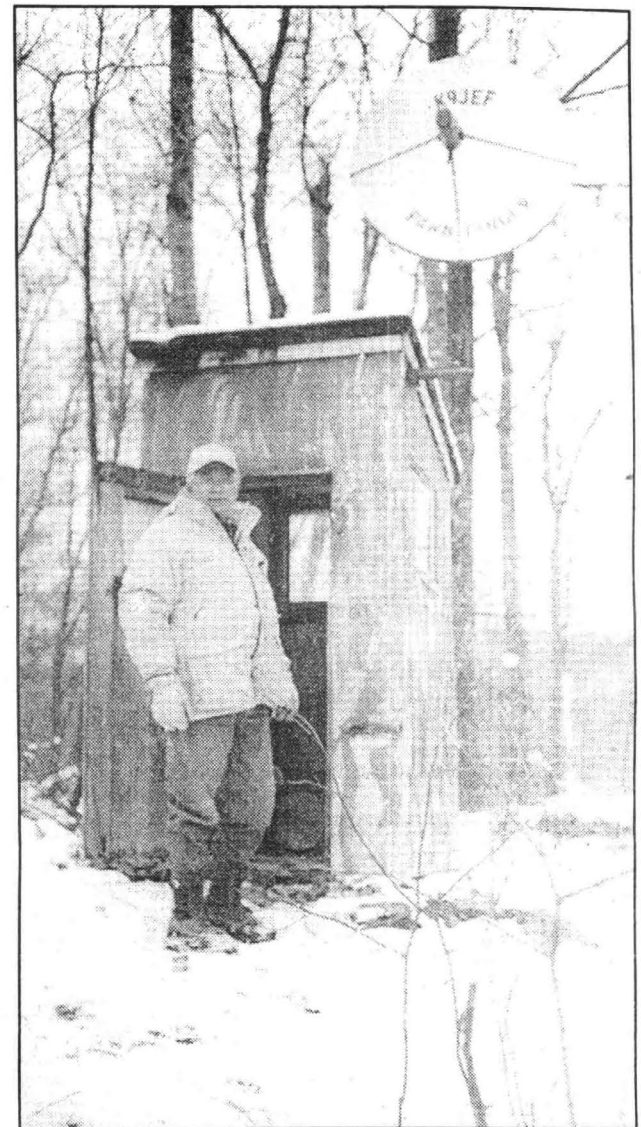
You can be certain that no local LEO (law enforcement officer) will believe one word said about amateurs being exempt. There is legal risk here, and it applies both to the radio amateur and to the law enforcement agency which makes a "bust" without knowledge of the exemption for radio amateurs.

Congress and the president have just delegated enforcement authority to pretty much anyone, when in fact this jurisdiction is supposed to be federal only. That is because radio signals don't observe political boundaries, and that is how the Federal Radio Commission came to be, later the Federal Communications Commission. Prior to the FRC, radio was under authority of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The bottom line is this: Local governmental authorities should be wary if or when enforcing the new law.

A suggestion to them to keep them out of trouble would be for local governments to begin and maintain a good, close and friendly working relationship with the nearest Amateur Radio club. It is equally incumbent upon Amateur Radio clubs to make the very same effort.

Most hams are happy to work with local government in resolving RFI cases. That even involves finding

HIGH-TECH HUNTING

Or is it "Anything for a Buck", ala the "Newhart" TV show? Nope, it is K9JEF's friends at work, "helping" him hunt the wily whitetail. Or was "The Cable Guy" there? We'll never know. We do hope you found some venison after all that work!

"unfriendly folks" who may modify a radio to transmit on public service frequencies. Or they may steal them, whichever. That even happened right here in little Baraboo! Hams helped police to locate the equipment.

✱ The last year of the 20th century, now coming to a close, has seen a few interesting new developments in the space arena. First, Phase 3D (now called AO-40) was launched successfully by the European Space Agency in French Guiana. At this writing, the bird seems healthy, and it is slowly undergoing "field testing." It will be some time before it will be available for general use.

Second, the first Amateur Radio activity from the International Space Station ("Alpha 1" for now) has begun. Activity is happening, but on a very limited basis. Look for activity to pick up during 2001 as the station gains more modules, and now that it has a positive power budget.

✱ The year 2000 brought a changing of the guard, as George R. Isely, W9GIG, won the elected position of ARRL Central Division Director, defeating long-time incumbent Director Ed Metzger, W9PRN.

We extend our sincere thanks to Ed for his many years of service to the ARRL, which means to all of us, and we say "welcome" to W9GIG and wish him well as he takes on a new and challenging task.

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DECEMBER 2000

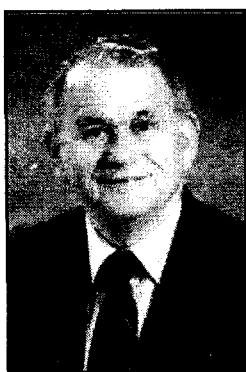
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The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(262) 284-9346
skaplan@execpc.com



No. 85: File Extensions

Did you ever wonder how Windows knows what program to use to open a file? If you click on an MS-Word document, MS-Word opens it. If you click on a text file, Notepad opens it. If you click on a sound-containing file, some player or other opens it and begins to play it. On the other hand, sometimes it does not work properly. You might have a good graphics editing and viewing program like Paint Shop Pro, yet when you click on a graphics file you want to see or edit, Windows calls on the old "lightweight" program, MS-Paint, to do the job. Why doesn't it work? On the other hand, when it does, how does Windows know what application to call on to do the job? The answer is that Windows simply does what most of us did when DOS was king. It looks at the file extension.

A DOS filename was restricted to 8 characters followed by a 3-character extension, for example, MYFILE.TXT. While Windows has extended the 8-character limit to 256, it still retained the three-character extension. Windows simply looks at the extension and opens the application that was associated with that extension when Windows was installed, or when that particular application software was installed. Here is a *small* sample of some extensions and what they are.

.\$\$\$ Temporary file	.log Log file
.1st Usually README.1ST text file	.mdb Database (MS Access)
.ani Animation (many)	.me Usually ASCII text file READ.ME
.asc ASCII text file	.mid Standard MIDI file (music synthesizers)
.avi Audio Video Interleaved animation file	.mng Map (DeLorme Map'n'Go)
.bak Backup file	.mp2 MPEG audio file MPEG = Motion Pictures Expert Group
.bat Batch file	.mpg MPEG animation
.bmp Bitmap graphics	.pal Color palette
.cfg Configuration file	.pdf Package Definition File (Adobe Acrobat)
.dat Data file in special format or ASCII	.pwl Password list file
.dic Dictionary	.rtf Rich Text Format text file (MS-Word)
.diz Description inside ZIP file - text	.sys System hardware configuration info
.dll Dynamic Link Library	.tga Truevision Targa bitmap graphics
.doc Document text file (MS-Word)	.tif Tagged Image File bitmap graphics
.dot Template (MS-Word)	.tff TrueType Font file
.err Error log	.txt Text file (ASCII)
.exe Executable program	.uue Compressed ASCII file (UUENCODE)
.faq Frequently Asked Questions text file	.voc Digitized audio
.fax Fax (raster graphics)	.vxd Virtual device driver (Windows)
.fnt Font file; also .fon	.wav Waveform audio file
.gif Graphics Interchange Format bitmap	.wmf Windows MetaFile vector graphics
.hlp Help information	.wri Text file (Windows Write)
.htm HyperText Markup Language document	.xls Data file (MS Excel)
.ico File which contains an icon	.xls Worksheet (MS Excel)
.inf Information text file (ASCII)	.zip Compressed file created by PKZIP
.ini Initialization file	
.jpg Bitmap graphics (Joint Photography Experts Group)	

You say you can't see any extensions when you examine lists of files in a folder? In its infinite wisdom, Microsoft has decided that users should not see them, so the default setup of Windows hides all file extensions as well as quite a few files. You can change that. These directions are for Windows 98, but they should be very close for other versions as well. Click My Computer, then on the View menu, click **Folder Options**. Click the **View** tab, then click **Show all Files**. That will stop Windows from hiding some files from you. Then click to clear the **Hide file extensions for known file types** box. Now all file extensions will be visible. If you also click the **Like Current Folder** button, all your folders will look like the My Computer folder. Go ahead and do it. You cannot hurt anything since there is also a **Restore Defaults** button if you later want things back the way they were.

If you then click the **File Types** tab, you can see the programs that are associated

with each extension. Scroll down through the list to get a feel for how many different file extensions are used on your particular machine. Quite a few! This is where you can change associations if you need to. For example, if you have Paint Shop Pro but MS-Paint opens when you try to edit a file, you can correct that by changing the association. If you are up to it, go to Windows Help and read the instructions under file extensions, associating with programs.

Want a printout of what you see on the screen in Help? Press the **Print Screen** key, which copies the screen to the Clipboard. Then exit Help and open **Programs**, **Accessories**, **Paint**. Then select **Edit**, **Paste** and the help screen will appear in the workspace. Select **Print**, and your printer will present you with a hard copy. This tip will work in most cases when you want to capture and print screen information. Happy computing!

Reprinted, by permission, from the ORC Newsletter, *Ozaukee Radio Club* (Ted Schweitzer, KB9RLI, Editor, 126 Lilac Lane, Belgium, WI 53004. <theo@execpc.com>).

Sorry folks, we're a little late

As many of you knew but many likely did not, this issue of BSSS was destined to be late. We tried to get the word out as best we could.

First, our apologies for the inconveniences this caused. It wasn't intentional, it was a no-choicer.

I have, over the last nine months, been shifting all production to the newer computer here. It runs Windows 98. Now, for the computer gurus, I could stop right there without further explanation. But so that everyone knows, Win98 "got naughty". It was my good fortune to have convinced K9EN to add a CD R/W drive to this box, as only about a week after I did a full hard drive backup, I had a full crash here. I had nearly all of the files I created backed up. But the mess finally required a full reformat of the hard drive. That includes reinstalling ALL of the software and doing a lot of configuring. What a pain!

OK, so I have a second computer here. It's a good machine. Guess what? It went down, too.

So, for quite a long time, I was computerless. I had a couple folks pull in my email, and that helped, but even much of that has been lost.

In certain of those emails were ad changes and other things that need attention. I ask those who did send emails of that type to check their ad, club listing, whatever, and see if the correction is done. If it isn't, please send it again. We will get the changes/corrections made posthaste.

Thanks for bearing with us.

Special thanks for help to Ken Ebner, K9EN; Jake Kitzinger, and WB9YSD for all the help. And time. And patience.

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, editor

President signs CB enforcement bill

President Bill Clinton has signed legislation that permits the enforcement of certain FCC Citizens Band regulations by state and local governments. **Amateur Radio operators are exempt from the provisions of the law, now PL 106-521.**

Congressional lawmakers saw the measure as a way to give a voice to those experiencing radio frequency interference resulting from illegal CB radio operation. The FCC will not yield its authority to regulate Citizens Band or other radio services, however.

In short, the measure authorizes states and localities to enact laws that prohibit the use of unauthorized CB equipment--consistent with FCC regulations. This would include the use of high-power linear amplifiers or equipment that was not FCC-certificated.

FCC-licensed stations in any radio service--including the Amateur Service--are excluded from such state or local enforcement, and state or local laws enacted under this legislation must identify this exemption.

The bill--HR.2346 is the House version; it was S.2767 in the Senate--actually is the old Senate "Feingold bill" from several sessions ago. (*BSSS editor's note: "Feingold" is Wisconsin's junior Senator, Russ Feingold.*) The bill's sponsor, Rep Vernon Ehlers of Michigan says local hams asked him to support the bill because of the bad rap they were getting from illegal CBers using high-power linear amplifiers that resulted in TV and telephone interference while the CBers involved hid behind federal preemption.

As did Feingold before him, Ehlers asked the ARRL to review his measure to ensure that it would not unintentionally harm Amateur Radio.

A copy of the new legislation is available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/11/29/3/cbbill.html>.

The ARRL Letter



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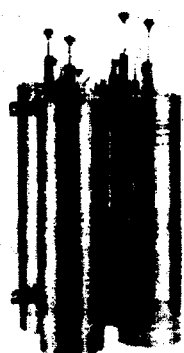
The TX RX Systems Inc. patented Vari-Notch filter circuit, a pseudo-bandpass design, provides low loss, high TX to RX, and between-channel isolation, excellent for amateur band applications. TX RX Systems Inc. has been manufacturing multicoupling systems since 1976. Other models available for 220 and 440 MHz, UHF ATV and 1.2 GHz.

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Dave Barquist, K9PAK, Factory Representative
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19" RACK MOUNT

In our January issue....

■ **Foundation for Amateur Radio announces scholarship availabilities for 2001-2002.**

■ **He's still hamming it U.P. at 100.**

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Dean R. Herriges, KB9ROB, Secretary
W370 S9590 Highway 67 • Eagle, WI 53119

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CST	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1200	0600	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1800	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2330	1730	K9FHI
WNN	Yes	3723	0000	1800	KB9ROB
WSSN	Yes	3645	0030	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0100	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0400	2200	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61	0130	1930	KA9OMC
(Mondays CDT) (Menomonie Area)					
Gr. Bay	No	72/12	0345	2145	WB9NRK
(Green Bay Area)					
ARES	No	4.65/5.25	0300	2100	

Wisconsin STM Report October, 2000

It's time to get serious about helping new operators find involvement in traffic and net operations. Those new to the hobby may need exposure to the National Traffic System in a meaningful way, just as they may need "Elmering" to get on the air. So here's what we're going to try.

Monthly, our Section Manager or Section Traffic Manager will originate a message to each new ham or upgrade, offering congratulations and assistance. The delivering station of each message will be a direct contact from the Wisconsin nets to the newcomer and will have the opportunity to answer questions as well as invite the new ham to participate in traffic handling at some level. This will not only remind new operators of this important aspect of the hobby, but it will identify to each a traffic handler as a resource. Because it comes from within our section and offers direct help, this message will be more than a greeting from Texas. It will use our system to improve our system.

The message will probably look like this.

NR ROUTINE HXG W9IXG ARL18
MADISON WI DATE _____

TO _____

ARL FIFTY ARL FIFTY SIX
LICENSE X CONTACT ME FOR ANY HELP
GETTING STARTED ARL SEVEN 73

Don W9IXG
section manager
w9ixg@arrl.org
(608)274-1886

Operator's note: Delivering this message, explaining the traffic system, and offering your help provides a very important service to ham radio in Wisconsin. Thank you.

I sincerely hope traffic handlers will support this effort. We need new operators, added net participation, and more training opportunities in handling traffic. Let's give it a try.

73 - K9LGU /STM

Happy New Year

from
Badger State Smoke Signals!

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY October 2000

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1290	1659	2325	31	W9IHW
BEN	456	38	623	30	for W9RCW
WSBN	552	68	695	30	KE9VU
WNN	125	17	318	30	K9FHI
WSSN	317	22	320	30	KB9ROB
WIN/E	216	66	299	31	N9BDL
WIN/L	191	51	303	31	WB9ICH
					W9UW
TOTALS	3147	1921	4883	213	

That's 3147 check-ins, passing 1921 pieces of traffic, in 4883 minutes of 213 net sessions. Nice going.

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY - October 2000 STATION ORIG RCVD SENT DLVD TOTAL

K9JPS	0	532	31	525	1088	BPL
W9IHW	5	423	47	380	855	BPL
W27V	0	331	31	303	665	BPL
W9PY	0	303	335	0	638	BPL
K9GU	0	198	30	196	424	BPL
N9TVT	0	97	283	2	382	
N9VE	0	102	16	98	216	
W9CBE	0	59	66	2	127	
N9BDL	0	32	55	31	118	
K9FHI	0	43	72	0	115	
K9LGU	1	54	21	3	79	
AG9G	0	8	54	0	62	
W9YCV	1	11	33	9	54	
W9UW	0	39	12	0	51	
KE9VU	0	18	32	0	50	
WD9GNK	0	46	2	0	48	
K9GB	0	7	36	0	43	
N9KHD	0	19	24	0	43	
W9BHL	0	0	33	9	42	
AA9BB	0	5	35	0	40	
KB9ROB	0	32	2	3	37	
K9HDF	0	0	30	0	30	
WD9FLJ	3	10	8	6	27	
KA9FVX	0	0	23	0	23	
WB9ICH	0	19	3	0	22	
W9PVD	0	6	7	0	13	
W9ODV	0	0	12	0	12	
N9JY	0	2	8	2	12	
N9UAR	1	3	1	3	8	
WA9ZTY	0	1	1	0	2	

P S H R SUMMARY - October 2000

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TL
K9JPS	50	18	24	52	50	10	0	0	627
K9FHI	60	24	24	0	0	30	30	30	198
N9BDL	60	24	24	31	0	30	10	0	179
N9VE	254	0	0	98	0	30	0	0	153
WD9FLJ	60	0	24	6	3	20	0	3	143
W9YCV	60	24	24	9	0	20	0	0	137
K9LGU	60	24	24	3	1	20	0	0	132
W9CBE	60	24	24	2	0	20	0	0	130
AG9G	60	24	18	0	0	10	10	0	122
N9TVT	60	24	24	2	0	10	0	0	120
KA9FVX	39	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	49

**Thank you for reading
Badger State
Smoke Signals!**

Mancorad Radio Club

Theresa Hartlaub, KB9KXE,
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output



Meeting Minutes November 8th, 2000

The November meeting was called to order by President Fred (W6BSF) at 7:38 p.m. October minutes were approved by second from Len (N9QFO) and the members in attendance. Roger (W9NPX), gave the treasurer's report and this also was approved by a second from Red (N9GHE) and all members.

All members are reminded by Fred (W6BSF) that the December meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 14th at the bank at 7:30. Because of a prior commitment, the bank room will not be available on our regular night.

All members interested in coming to the annual Christmas party are reminded to pay Roger (W9NPX) by the next meeting. Cost is 8.00 a person with the rest being picked up by the club. The meal is family style with chicken and ribs and all the trimmings. It will be held on January 12th, 2001 at Cedar Ridge Restaurant with drinks at 6:00 and the meal at 7:00. Again a 5.00 gift exchange will be held for anyone interested. Please mark your gift for a man or lady. John Meyer (NZ9Z) will be giving a presentation on his and wife Cindy's trip to Sri Lanka. This should prove to be very interesting and informative. We thank John in advance for being the entertainment for the evening.

All members who have not yet paid treasurer Roger (W9NPX) for yearly dues need to get the money in immediately, by the December meeting.

The monthly Saturday breakfast get together with the Sheboygan club will be held on Nov. 11th at 8:00 at the Cleveland Family Restaurant. Everyone is invited to come.

A discussion was held regarding the upcoming Point Beach nuclear drill. It will be held Dec. 5th. Anyone interesting in participation should contact Fred (W6BSF). Those signed up so far are: Roger (W9NPX), Red (N9GHE), Len (N9QFO), Denise (N4WGK) and Fred (W6BSF).

Once again any member who has loaned out club equipment is urged to return it as soon as possible. Otherwise, notify Fred.

A moment of silence was observed for former member, Bill Daly (WD9ERN) who passed away recently. The club had sent a spray of flowers and a thank you from the family was read.

A lively discussion was held on upcoming renewal of the insurance policy on club equipment. It was decided to on renew insurance on the repeater and to carry replacement coverage. We need to make sure that lightning strikes are also

covered. It will come up for renewal early next year.

All members are encouraged to set aside some time after the 1st of the year to hold sort out our equipment at the club shack. We need to go through everything and pack up so that moving will be easier. With everyone's help this task will go smoothly.

Member Ken (WB9OBX) has relocated to Hawaii for a time. He has given the club some books on Ham radio to the club. Janice (N9IQZ) has them.

Fred (W6BSF) brought up 2 ideas for increasing membership. Annual "Ham of the Year" award and Participation awards to those involved with the club and its activities. More discussion at the next meeting. Think about this.

Following the same train of thought, Mary (KB9GOY) brought an article in about a local club setting up a display at the local county fair. This was discussed for our fair and there is interest in doing this. We will look into this further as to getting a site and an OK for broadcasting from the fair board.

Are we ringing bells for the Salvation Army this year? John Meyer will check into this for us. Look for further details next month. This is a fun and rewarding time for all those who take the time.

Our attendance drawing was held with Ken (WB9OBX) was drawn, but not here. The pot goes to 10.00

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 by motions by Dan (N9FVZ) and Rahlf (N9AWG).

Ron (WS9X) gave a very interesting talk on his collection of telegraph keys. He had numerous models for us to look at. Thank you Ron for taking the time to do this for the club.

*Submitted for approval:
Theresa Hartlaub (KB9KXE)
Secretary*

MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE

Fred, W6BSF	Les, WB9MNQ
Theresa, KB9KXE	Dave, N9HNP
Roger, W9NPX	Ken, K9HAG
Dan, N9FVZ	Len, N9QFO
Mary, KB9GOY	Bob, KB9INK
Denise, N4WGK	Rahlf, N9AWG
Bill, N9XEZ	Janice, N9IQZ
Red, N9GHE	Ron, WS9X
Chuck, N9WUN	

The Racine Megacycle Club



Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI
Don Parkinson, KB9HAM, Secretary
c/o RMC • P.O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 54301-0003
e-mail: w9udu@wi.net

Web: <http://www2.wi.net/~hamradio/>
Voice mail: (414) 552-6RMC • ARRL Affiliated
Providing communications for American Red Cross and ARES

The Racine Megacycle Club opened its meeting at Gateway Technical College on October 9th at 7:30 p.m. by President Bob Burgemeister, W9EH. Introductions began with a new licensee, Justin, KB9WYW, followed by other members who were present at the meeting.

The reading of the minutes was dispensed since everyone read it before they came to the

meeting. A motion by Dave Voss (W9USI) to approve the minutes and seconded by Nick (K9-AXI). The Secretary's minutes were accepted.

The Treasurer's report by Greg Holding (KB9RMA) was read. Kevin Aney (KB9LLV) moved to accept the surer's report and sec-

Racine Megacycle Club

Continued from page 7

ended by Phil Neumiller (KC9IS). The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Old Business

Phil Neumiller, nomination chairman, reported on who is up for election at our next meeting in November.

President: Kevin Aney (KB9LLV)
Vice-President: Don Parkinson (KB9HAM)
Secretary: Open
Treasurer: Open
Activities Chairman: Open

Between Phil and Dave Whitham (K9DQ), they have not been successful in finding candidates for the other 3 positions on the board.

Greg (KB9RMA), Treasurer, mentioned that he had received a half dozen renewals to the club. The club shows at this time 40 members.

Greg Holding reported that on September 12th, he purchased a replacement for the HT that was stolen during our Field Day event.

The topic of location of our meetings was discussed again. Phil (KC9IS) mentioned he liked the Red Cross and Dave Whitham (K9DQ) said he liked the facilities at Gateway.

Dave Voss (W9USI) also stated that at the Red Cross you get shuffled around. Both places have their disadvantages.

President Burgermeister mentioned that Kenny Kuchar was moving by the end of the month and it is necessary that he should pick up the club's generator. So, now the generator is at Bob's garage. As soon as Rees (K9UUT) comes back with the key it will be stored in the Red Cross Building. Kenny estimated that there is about \$200 in repairs. He thought he would turn it over to Scott and see what he could do with this one. He fixed the other generator for \$12. That was a pretty good deal. It has a Briggs and Stratton engine.

Bob also acquired from Kenny a beam an-

tenna of questionable heritage. It was one that was thrown in his scrap-heap and so Bob rescued it. It is a tri-band beam.

At the end of this month is "Make a Difference Day" - October 28th. It was suggested to look at the tower at the Red Cross. The top section has a crack in it and we don't have much of good weather left for repairs. It was mentioned by Gene (WB9ZKY) that the tower is not supported or buried in the ground and for that reason; it was not extended any higher.

Announcement

K9RI 220Mhz Repeater (224.800) is back on the air from the new 50 foot tower at the Kenosha Explorer Post.

Phil (KC9IS) spoke about PSK31. There is now an officially sanctioned net on Thursday nights at 8:00 p.m. (just before QCWA net) by the Racine Lakeshore Repeater Club to have a net. The name of the net is called "Computer Controlled Communications." The reason Phil called it as such because this digital-tech mode is the way of the future. John, N9RGV, is the alternate in case the net controller cannot make it. Napoleon, N0XXL, has also volunteered if Phil or John not able to make it for the net.

Dave Voss announced that there will be a Fox Hunt held on Friday, November 3rd. They will meet at Regency Mall. The winners for October:

- 1st place: Ray, K9RI
Dan, KA9OIL
- 2nd place: Dennis, K9DAD
- 3rd place: Joe, KB9HSJ

A motion to close the meeting was given by Kevin, KB9LLV, and seconded by Greg, KB9RMA. All present sustained the motion.

We were then invited to stay for a few minutes by those that brought their SHOW & TELL items.

Three items of interest were presented. President Bob Burgermeister, W9EH had two items, and Don Parkinson, KB9HAM, shared one. Bob showed an old vintage 2-meter radio that was placed on a motorcycle. Also, Bob showed a book (among a series of books) that he is collecting and the theme was about Amateur Radio. Don showed a power-supply that he built with the help of his Elmer, Bob Jensen (W0WLN).



SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Sky Borkenhagen, N9XRU, Secretary
N6466 Plank Circle • Glenbeulah WI 53023

2-Meter Repeater: 147.06 Output

The November meeting was called to order by club President Steve, N9TRK, at 7:00 p.m. There were seven members present. The SCARC meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month in the Red Cross building at 2032 Erie Ave. in Sheboygan.

The meeting opened with the announcement of a new area Packet Cluster DX node that has been setup by Joe, N9REH at his QTH. To log on connect to N9REH-7 at 144.910. Joe also provided very informative hand outs on the system, detailing the system commands and operation. Thanks, Joe! Well done.

The club treasurer Mike, K9SJ, reported the current club balance is at \$431.66. A cut off date for yearly dues was also discussed along with the ham of the year nomination ballots. All members present at the meeting agreed the club ham of the year award presentation during Field Day's should continue as requested by Mike, K9SJ.

Steve, N9TRK requested members start thinking about the club's up coming annual February Valentine dinner and is open to suggestions. A discussion of last years dinner followed. Also discussed was how the exterior partition wall to the radio room should be finished and it was decided paneling close to or matching the adjoining wall will be purchased and installed. Other radio room details and plans were finalized including interior peg board, paint color, room furnishings, layout, etc.

Prior to the close of the meeting Jon Weeden Director of the Sheboygan County Red Cross stopped by to see how the room was proceeding. Jon is checking into keys for the room door lockset.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14

Net Schedule

The SCARC 2 Meter net meets Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. on 147.060, PL107.2 +. This

is a fun net and all are welcome to join us. Any members willing to take net control for one or more nights should contact Steve, N9TRK.

Saturday Morning Breakfasts

The Saturday morning Sheboygan hams breakfasts are held at the following venues:

- 1st - Jumes in Sheboygan
- 2nd - Family Restaurant in Cleveland
- 3rd - Jumping Jacks at Kohler Sports Core
- 4th - Park View Restaurant, County PP in Sheboygan Falls
- 5th - Hill Farm Restaurant, County V and OK in Sheboygan

Email List

If you use e-mail, consider signing up on the Sheboygan Hams mailing list. Simply submit your e-mail address to:

<julian@bongo.tele.com>

All e-mail sent to

<shebham@tele.com>

will be forwarded to all listed subscribers. Thanks again!, N6ARE for providing this wonderful mail server for SCARC use.

Club Postal Mailing address

SCARC, PO Box 1282,
Sheboygan, WI 53081-1282

Respectfully Submitted:
Sky Borkenhagen,
N9XRU

Lakeshore Repeater Association

147.270 MHz • Racine, Wisconsin

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO • 5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402-9741 • wa9jmo@wi.net

There have been a number of questions asked concerning our 440-ma line. Basically, "When will it be on the air?" I would like to say soon, but in all reality I just don't know. We have obtained the required liability insurance, ordered the transmission line, and have been talking with a few tower climbers. Once the transmission line has arrived and we have obtained a tower side mount and stabilizer for the antenna, we can contract with a climber to complete the tower installation. I understand climbers do work all year long, so the time of the year should not hamper our project.

We are still looking to combine our installation with another group that will putting up their own antenna in the near future. We may be able to save a few dollars in a joint venture. Once the antenna has been "hung", the technical committee will move the repeater to the tower site, connect all the working parts and test the system.

The Repeater quarterly meetings for 2001 will on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Racine Red Cross building, 4521 Taylor Avenue. The dates are January 30th, April 24th, July 31st and October 23rd.

As we come to the close of another year, the 25th for our Repeater Association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the folks who have done so much for our club; their time, energy,

talent and, yes, even the money spent for needed entities that they "neglected" to recoup, were donated, in support of something they believed in and our community has greatly benefited from. Many of the early supporters have moved on, other locations, other interests, or have become Silent Keys. Many, I did not personally know, but I have certainly reaped the benefits from the "seeds" that they sowed a quarter of a century ago.

One supporter that has remained, steadfast and always vigilant to the quirks associated with daily repeater operations, is Gene Haney, WB9-ZKY. On countless occasions, Gene has literally had to battle nature's elements driving to correct a malfunctioning entity at one of our repeater sites. And the majority of our repeater users never knew there had been a problem. Our technical committee is now expanding, with the additional responsibilities associated with our 70-cm machine, to include folks that have the same sense of commitment and concern that Gene and Pete Kinzelman, N9KGG, have bestowed upon our 2-meter repeater. Thanks, guys!

On behalf of your Board of Directors, and myself we would like to wish you and your loved ones, a most Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy and prosperous New Year.

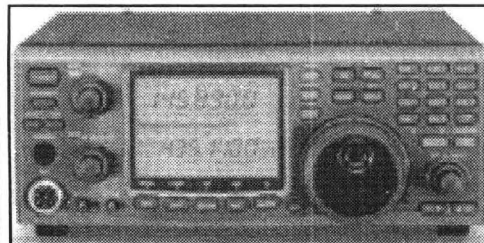
73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, President

Ham license plates due in January; new base plates to be issued

Most hams with Amateur Radio license plates received notice that it is time to renew those plates. This time, it will bring a brand new pair of plates, resulting in a one-time fee of \$55.00. In 2002, the fee drops back to \$45.00, unless the legislature changes fees in the budget. Work on the budget will be done in the session beginning in January.

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ

New Products



Icom IC-910H satellite all-mode transceiver

With the introduction of the IC-910H VHF/UHF all mode transceiver from Icom, the new standard in Amateur Radio satellite radios has arrived. The IC-910H contains a full 100 watts of power on VHF, eliminating the need for an external power amplifier for satellite uplinks. For Mode-J satellites, Icom provides 75 watts of output on UHF.

With dual high sensitivity DSP compatible receivers, weak signal DX and satellite communications are second to none. Optional preamplifiers for each band are available for installations requiring additional receive gain. The optional UT-106 DSP units can be added to both bands for noise reduction and improved S/N ratio.

Packet operation has never been easier. The IC-910H contains two data sockets for simultaneous packet operation on the main and sub bands. New high-speed PLL lockup times were added to make high-speed 9600 bps packet more reliable. A transceiver modulation input limiter stops modulation any time the input level to the radio is exceeded.

Icom also added an easy to read 3.5" display. Coupled with a 10-key entry pad, direct frequency or memory channel control is at your fingertips. These features don't come at the expense of size. Measuring only 24 x 9 x 24cm and weighing 4.5kg, the IC-910H is ready for Field Day or any other portable operations that require a top notch, all-mode VHF/UHF transceiver. Without a doubt, the IC-910H sets a new standard for satellite operation.

Included in the suggested retail price of the IC-910H is a DC power cable and an HM-12 hand microphone.

For further information about the IC-910H, contact your authorized Icom dealer or Icom America, Inc., 2380 116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, WA 98004.

Icom news release

Pennsylvania ham snags ISS contact

It was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time, says ARRL member Randy Shriver, KG3N, of Hanover, Pennsylvania. He managed to snag the first--and so far only--"informal" contact with ISS Expedition 1 crew commander William "Shep" Shepherd, KD5GSL, early on the morning of November 13. "I only had 20 seconds or so," said Shriver. Space Station Alpha was over Newfoundland at the time and had just completed an "engineering pass" contact with NN1SS at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland when Shriver dropped in a quick call, and Shepherd came back to him using his own call sign.

"Well Randy, you are my first contact from the space station," Shepherd responded.

A ham for about 20 years, Shriver says he built his station specifically for SAREX contacts (he's got four stacked 22-element arrays and 100 W). In 1985, Shriver worked Tony England, W0ORE, aboard the shuttle Challenger. WGAL-TV, Channel 8 in Lancaster included a report on Shriver's ISS QSO in its newscasts.

The ARRL Letter

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Rich Nesbitt, N9WPH, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

Meeting Minutes
7 November 2000

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by President Kim Kunze - N9SDL.

Program: Club Auction. Auctioneer - Jim, N9FOL.

Members present: N9SDL, N9WPH, N9NMH, KB9DED, N9LIA, N9NQW, N9PHC, K9JXW, N3FDE, KB9MCZ, WA9NBC, K9QM, KB9PVI, N9FOL, KB9RXA, KB9RXB, N9SWL, N9NRC, KB9STB, N9INI, N9TTA, N9IAB, K9JPS, N9SDI, Guest: Josh, studying for amateur license.

Motion to suspend the regular business meeting agenda and proceed directly to the auction from KB9STB, 2nd KB9DED - passed.

Members agreed that 10% of their earnings from the auction would be donated to the Club.

Matt, N9NMH, gave a brief update on the new tower. The Club's antenna and bracket may be installed next week weather permitting. Antenna will be mounted at 115 ft.

Kim, N9SDL, said the Community Foundation who donated the funds to the Club would like a glossy picture of the antenna and equipment.

The auction results:

ITEM:	OWNER:	BUYER:	PRICE:
Receiver	K9QM	KB9JXW	\$2.
Speakers	K9QM	N9NMH	\$3.
Pioneer cable convert	K9QM	KB9DED	\$1.
Yaesu world clock	K9QM	N9SDL	\$10.
(2) 20 Amp power supply	K9QM	KB9RXA	\$10.
486 Computer Syst	WVRA	N9NMH	No bids
1999 Call CD	WVRA	KB9RXA	\$30.
Multimeter	WVRA	N9WPH	\$27.
Desk Mic for CB	WVRA	KB9DED	\$6.
AEA Packrat & Fax	WVRA		No bids
TV rotor & control	WVRA	N9WPH	\$5.
Marine radio & antenna	WVRA	K9QM	\$17.50
GE Cable Convert	WVRA		No bids
Viking radio tester	WVRA	N9WPH	\$11.
Handheld scanner	WVRA	KB9RXA	\$1.
2.5Amp power supply	WVRA	N9NQW	\$3.50
2.5Amp power supply	WVRA	N9WPH	\$3.
TV stereo receiver	WVRA	KB9JMB	\$0.
12in B&W TV	WVRA	K9JPS	\$5.
Rohn 3 ft. tripod	WVRA	K9QM	\$12.
MFJ 6M tuner/SWR meter	WVRA	N9PHC	\$28.
Radio Shack multimeter	WVRA	N9IAB	\$21.
Dot Matrix printer	WVRA		No bids
Phone base station	WVRA		No bids
Control heads	WVRA	KB9RXA	\$50.
Rohn 56' nesting tower	WVRA	N9WPH	\$150.
Yaesu hat	N9FOL	KB9MCZ	\$1.
Yaesu hat	N9FOL	N9INI	\$2.
Kenwood dualband	N9FOL	KB9RXB	\$75.
GE radio AM/FM/scanner	N9NQW	N9WPH	\$1.
Rotor controllers (3)	N9NQW	N9NMH	\$1.
MFJ 6M tuner/SWR meter	KB9MCZ	N9IAB	\$30.
KLM 2M beam antenna	KB9MCZ	N9WPH	\$10.
Computer Syst (2)	KB9DED	N9SDL	\$20.
Computer Syst (2)	KB9DED	N9FOL	\$20.
Receiver	KB9DED	N9NRC	\$12.
HP laser printer	KB9DED	N9SDL	\$20.
HP laser printer	KB9DED	N3FDE	\$20.
HP laser printer	KB9DED	N9RXA	\$5.
HP laser printer	KB9DED	N9IAB	\$5.
Yaesu FT-51R dualband	N9INI	No bids	Asking \$175
Compac 333mhz Laptop	N9INI	No bids	Asking \$750
Dot Matrix printer	N9SDL	N9FOL	\$5.
Bearcat scanner	N9SDL	N9PHC	\$8.
Bearcat scanner	N9SDL	KB9DED	\$5.
166/96 motherboard	N9SDL	No bids	Asking \$40
166/64 motherboard	N9SDL	No bids	Asking \$30
486SX Laptop	N9SDL	KB9RXA	\$93.
Motorola receiver	WA9NBC		No bids
Steel case	WA9NBC	N9WPH	\$1.

Total: \$680.50

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. Motion - KB9DED, 2nd - N9LIA.

Next meeting: 12/05/00. Program: To be announced on the net.

Respectfully submitted:
Rich Nesbitt - N9WPH
WVRA Secretary

Meeting Minutes
5 December 2000

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by President Kim Kunze - N9SDL.

Program: "APRS", by Mike, KB9VBR, and Mike, KB9DED. A couple of handouts were provided. Contact the presenters if you want more info.

Members present: N9SDL, N9WPH, N9NMH, KB9DED, N9MEA, KB9VBR, N9SDI, N9LIA, N9UAG, KB9MCZ, KB9RXA, N9IAB, N9NRA, N9NRC, WA9NBC, N9TTA, KB9RXB, N3FDE, and KB9PVI.

Secretary Report approved as published in *Badger State Smoke Signals*. Motion: Mike, KB9DED; 2nd: Andy, N9NRA.

Treasurer report: \$535.50 amount club earned made from the auction in November. Report approved. Motion: Matt, N9NMH; 2nd: Tom, N9TTA.

Old Business

Tower update: a picture of the equipment that was purchased with the funds from the Foundation grant was taken with a digital camera. The antenna and bracket won't be installed until weather improves.

New Business

Roy Pedersen, K9FHI is the new Wisconsin Section Affiliated Club Coordinator.

1. Kim, N9SDL received a catalog from Glen Martin Engineering with a code number for the club. Members will get 5% discount if they include the code with their order. The club will get \$25 for any order greater than \$1000.

2. Kim, N9SDL received a notice about a 5% discount on orders for the callbook on CD, \$49.95. A 20% discount for orders of 2-9 CD's and a 40% discount for more than 10 CD's.

3. Mike, KB9VBR announced the start of UHF monthly net on 12/07/00 at 9pm on 444.1. Mike will be the initial net control.

4. Jack, N9LIA, announced his retiring from the Technical College and the club will need to look for another place to host the monthly meeting after January 2001. Someone suggested the University, the Hospital, State Patrol building or the Clinic.

5. Jack, N9LIA, announced the club's repeater trustee, Tony, K9QM, needs to complete the verification for Wisconsin Association of Repeaters. The form was due back in August. Kim, N9SDL, will check with Tony.

6. Jack, N9LIA, is seeking volunteers for the Special Olympics event on 2/10-11/2001. People who volunteered last year should receive a form from the Special Olympics. Jack wants you to send the forms to him if you plan to volunteer for the event. A sign up sheet is available for others who want to volunteer.

7. Andy, N9NRA, discussed the passage of a new law that concerns enforcement of CB operators. He was concerned the law might interfere with licensed ham operators on HF.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. Motion: Mark, N9MEA. 2nd: Jack, N9LIA.

Next meeting: 1/02/01. Program: "Packet Clusters" by Scott Jasper, NE9U.

Respectfully submitted:
Rich Nesbitt - N9WPH
WVRA Secretary

PUBLIC SERVICE
Amateur Radio gets the
traffic through, no matter
what. Contact your EC
and join ARES today.

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402



Lloyd Gorsiske, WB9RGO, accepts the "Olix Fox, K9AKG, Recognition of excellence award from chapter President Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO.

Our annual Christmas party was held at the Fireside Restaurant in Kenosha on Sunday, December 10th.

After the meal quelled the rumbling in one's stomach, the event's attendees, numbering 20 members and spouses, witnessed the presentation of Chapter 162's 5th Olin Fox, K9AKG Recognition of Excellence Award. Chapter president Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, presented the award to Lloyd G. Gorsiske, WB9RGO, "For exemplary service to Amateur Radio for his long-standing dedication to community based communication support."

Lloyd's Amateur Radio activities have evolved around and through communication service to the residents of Southeast Wisconsin as witnessed in the untold hours diligently logged as a Military Affiliate Radio Traffic handler; and the time, effort, energy and expertise he has willingly given as Racine County's ARRL Emergency Coordinator.

Lloyd has set-up and maintains one of Wisconsin's finest Packet Radio Bulletin Boards. His organization skills in planning and providing communication support for community events such as Southeast Wisconsin's weekly weather net, the annual Lutheran High's Walk-a-thon and Light-house Run aided the committee in this year's unanimous selection". Congratulation Lloyd!

We all had a grand time exchanging gifts, but

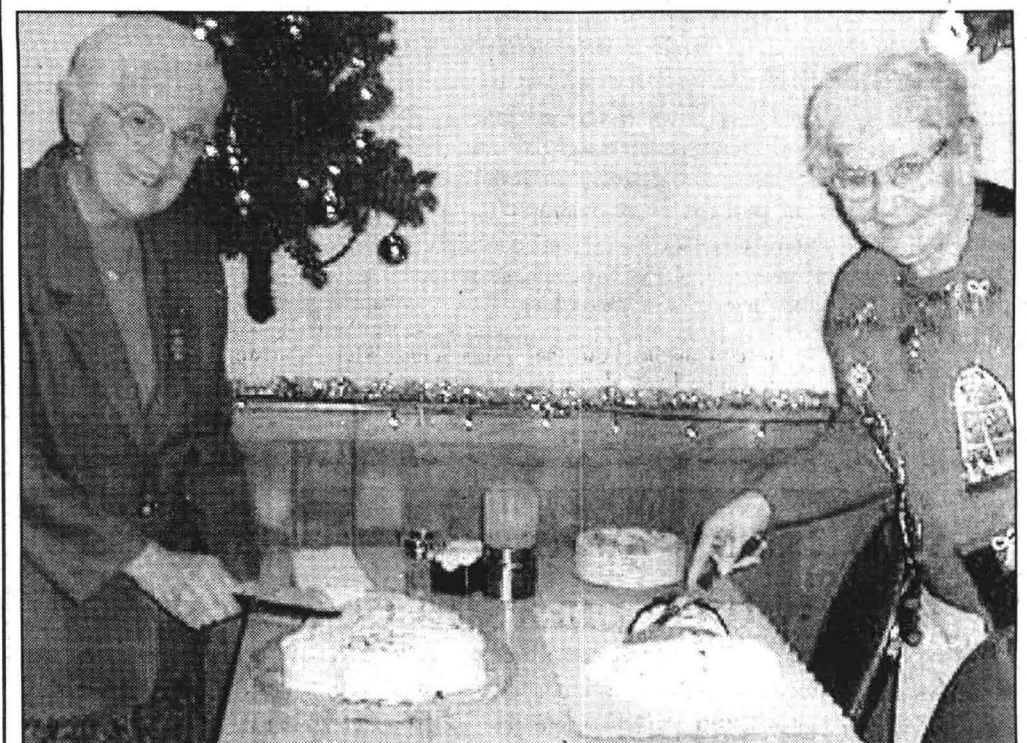
I am afraid we left quite a mess for the waitress to clean up. Even though the gratuity was included on the meal's bill, I added a few tokens to the total. I was very messy myself and just tried to ease my conscience a bit.

Our final gifts were two wonderful cakes prepared by Marcy Knotek and Marie Konicek from old family recipes handed down through the centuries so we poor radio operators could sample a little slice of heaven here on earth. Ladies, the cakes were wonderful; I should know as I had a very large portion of each.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 15 January 2001, at the Meadow's Restaurant in Franksville beginning at 7 p.m. Agenda items will include (a) operating the QCWA International's Special Event Call for the two QCWA QSO parties - April 7th and October 6th of 2001; (b) Amateur Radio as an Option Program at Racine's Red Apple Elementary School in March; (c) Field Day; (d) the 2001 QCWA Cruise Convention; (e) committee appointments; and (f) other items of general interest.

Wendy and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones the most joyous holiday season and a very happy and healthy 2001.

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
President



Heaven on earth: Marcy Knotek and Marie Konicek treated the QCWA/162 meeting to home made cake.

Photos courtesy WA9JMO



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association

Allen Schnepf, NØGMJ, Treasurer
Ogema, WI 54459

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 453 Cottage Grove Avenue • Green Bay, WI 54304 • e-mail: kb9aln@juno.com

WAPR News - December, 2000 by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

December is here, and soon the holidays. On behalf of all of the officers of WAPR, allow me to extend warm and happy holiday wishes to everyone. Here's hoping that your holiday celebrations are safe and happy.

After you've gotten through the holidays, we hope you will take the time to attend the WAPR meeting on January 20, 2001 in Pittsville. The meeting will be held at the fire station (at the base of the water tower) in town, and will get under way at 10:00 A.M. After the meeting, we hope you'll join the gang for lunch at one of the local eateries so we can continue our discussion and rag-chewing.

As of yet, we only have one agenda item we have to cover, with more to follow. That's the election of officers, in particular the board position that opened up with the passing of Ron Nelson, N9CFN last summer. As always, we will have open nominations for other positions. We welcome these, as some of the WAPR board members (myself included) have been on the board for a number of years and we are due for new members with fresh ideas.

One item that will doubtless be discussed is how to get the general level of packet operation increased. Any-

drop-off of activity. Someone with a fresh perspective may be able to contribute some new ideas that may help in that regard. So if you have ever found yourself "on the fence", wondering if you should get involved, by all means, attend the meeting and let your views be known. We'll all be interested to hear new ideas, as well as any special packet projects you may be working on. Members and non-members alike will be welcomed, and I hope you can make the meeting. After all, they call it a "meeting". So if you're a new packet operator, or one who has been at it for some time and has been "lurking" in the background, now is the time to attend this gathering and introduce yourself.

In other news, Joel N9BQM reports that he has not gotten the opportunity to complete all of the repairs to the Rudolph node site, but hope to soon. We'll be sure to discuss this at the meeting, I am sure.

In addition to this, I am sure we will also discuss something that I brought up a few months back, how to deal with increasing speed on our network and I.A.N.s, as well as future band planning on both UHF and VHF to accommodate any increased speeds. In order to retain our user base and perhaps even increase it, we really need to think about this and plan for it accordingly. One could argue that this is an ideal time to take on such a discussion, as when packet activity is low, we would be displacing fewer users who have investments in time, energy and money in equipment.

You'll note that this month's accompanying article deals with this very topic. It was sparked by a message I saw on the BBS in November, which is a very good starting point for this discussion. Hope you find it interesting and gets you to thinking.

That'll do it for news this month. As always, I am always looking for packet news to share with our readers. Drop me a note at one of the addresses at the top of this page, and I'll be happy to print it here.

Until next time, 73 from Andy.

A Packet Speed-Up Suggestion by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

While doing my usual packet BBS sysop'ing duties early one morning, I came upon a message that really struck home for me. It got me to thinking and wondering about this gentleman's suggestion and I thought it deserved sharing (in case you have not seen it already). John's observations are definitely food for thought. Here is his message reprinted as it appeared on the BBS's, my comments follow:

From: n1wil@klugm
To: all@allus
Subject: can we do this?

Greetings,

Thanks for reading this. I know that with the Internet taking over much of the traffic that once pulsed through packet, that the activity of the medium has been slowly dying. We can do something about this people! the magic potion: SPEED! we have refused to try to better ourselves by making 2400 baud as the standard packet speed for VHF/UHF work. While most backbones run at 9600 baud, 2400 baud should require no special mods to use. So why aren't we using it? Maybe there's a reason I'm not aware of that explains why we are not switching to a higher speed for everyday packet

there who still feel the spirit deep within, to try to push us up a little. 2400 being twice the rate as our current speed is at least a half compromise to the pitiful 1200 baud rates that drip along today. is there ANYONE out

there game to try this out? where is our sense of cutting edge spirit?

73 - John, N1WIL @ K1UGM V WHIT

I applaud John's willingness to share his thoughts on the subject and his concern that fueled this message. In the past, I've thought that this would be a logical step to take and do have some thoughts on this from the perspective of a BBS sysop as well as a packet user.

First off, for some packet operators, John is right - 2400 bps is easy for the average user to implement and would also double data throughput, if done correctly. His observation that speed is one reason why people have been leaving packet is only partly correct, I think. It is also the lack of new and interesting things that are done on packet. And a lot of that does relate to speed. I have written about sending web pages over packet radio in this space in the past, and one reason why more people don't do this is because waiting for web pages to arrive at 1200 bps is not much fun. Realistically, we can do anything that is done on the Internet with packet radio - just slower. But this prospect loses it's appeal when you can nap waiting for data to arrive.

Would things get terribly better with 2400 bps as our standard data transmission rate? Yes, and no. Yes because plain text messages would indeed get faster. Reading messages on the local BBS would be faster, and channel capacity would certainly increase proportionately. Would it bring us any new users? Possibly. Would it be a good return on the investment? Maybe, depending on who you are and what you want to do.

For a person who wishes to use plain text as their primary communications mode on packet, yes, it could

WISCONSIN AMATEUR PACKET RADIO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ HOME PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME BBS: _____ FREQ: _____ (Listing your home BBS is important)

MY PACKET STATION OPERATES: _____ DAY _____ NIGHT _____ 24 HOURS

I OPERATE A: _____ DIGIPEATER WITH AN ALIAS OF: _____

_____ FULL SERVICE BBS

PRIMARY PACKET INTEREST/EXPERTISE IS: _____

YES: I want to receive Badger State Smoke Signals and I understand that part of my dues will go to pay the subscription. Cost \$20.00.

NO: I do not wish to receive Badger State Smoke signals as part of WAPR membership. Cost \$15.00.

Complete and return this form with your check or money order — \$15.00 for membership only or \$20.00 for membership and Badger State Smoke Signals, made payable to W.A.P.R. to:

Allen Schnepf, NØGMJ, Treasurer,
W5000 SR 86
PO Box 558
Ogema, WI 54459

very well be. If you're a packet operator who wants to send pictures, web pages, sound files, or do any of the other things we can do with digital radio, the doubling of speed may help. But I don't think it's the total solution.

If you're a network node operator and operate more than one node, it may not be worth the expense. After all, this means investing money in perhaps two or more TNCs, only to see a potential doubling of data transfer speed. All of the users on a LAN may find 2400 bps useful and a good step forward; but if there is no network at their disposal, then the "fun factor" drops off considerably.

John is right with his observations that 1200 bps is archaic and slow, and that in order to use 9600 bps, one has to put forth an effort that is reminiscent of a painful tooth extraction to get good results. However, when you look at things realistically, 2400 bps is also archaic and slow. There is no benefit if the TNC and radio combination is not set up correctly - one may not see any increase in data throughput if this is the case. The same is also true of 9600 bps - a poor choice of radio, or one that is not set up correctly can also yield poor data throughput (in some cases not any better than 1200 bps!).

So what is one to do if he or she has the "cutting edge sprit" and does want to enjoy increased speed and the capabilities that come with it? After all, even the wireless Internet companies have trouble guaranteeing good performance and good geographical coverage at high data rates. How can we "lowly amateurs" do the same?

Perhaps we need to change our ways of thinking about packet radio. We have, since the dawn of packet radio, been using a TNC and radio combo connected to a computer running in "terminal mode" as our standard station setup. We have a bunch of boxes lined up on our shelves to do the job, and so far we have not had the best of results. Changing our thinking can not only get us better results, but perhaps tidy up the shack a bit.

A few months back I talked about some amateurs in Green Bay who are using wireless Ethernet cards on 900 MHz and 2.4 GHz experimentally. If you did not have a chance to check out the GBPPR Web Page (www.gbppr.org), you missed something that is very interesting - a cost comparison between wireless Ethernet card installations and a typical 9600 bps packet station (TNC, radio, feedline and antenna). The cost analysis shows that one can get pretty good performance out of a wireless Ethernet card for the same or - less - than the cost of a typical 9600 bps station. These cards can operate on our ham bands as part 15 devices, and can be amplified legally if you are a ham.

So while John makes some very good points concerning the "need for speed", merely doubling the speed will probably not bring us more packet radio operators. It will not get us web-based network applications that we see on the Internet. True, it is a step in the right direction, but I don't think it is the total solution. After all, in order to make the considerable investment in network infrastructure pay off by attracting more users, we need to be able to do the kinds of things that are done on the internet. In short, we need to increase the "fun factor", and wireless Ethernet cards may be one way to do it.

Some may dismiss this idea out of hand because it is not "amateur technology". True enough - but when was the last time you hand-built a synthesized 2-meter radio? The era of "ham invention" may not be over, but the corporate research lab has been responsible for most of the modern-day innovations we see in communications. And we may also gain valuable experience and techniques through experimentation and implementing such technology - we may be able to "teach the big boys a thing or two". We really needn't feel guilty about this. It's just one more fact of life we have to deal with, perhaps even embrace.

Are you a cutting edge person? Do you want to see packet radio go to the "next level"? Than think about this - and think how you can help your local node operator and others in his or her position make a change to higher speed as well. We can truly have much more fun than we are having now.

That's all for now, until next time, 73 from Andy.

THE TEST POINT

(continued from page 3)

March 20, 2001	Eden Prairie, MN
March 24, 2001	Bloomington, MN
March 24, 2001.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
March 24, 2001.	Tomahawk, WI
March 31, 2001	Menomonie, WI
April 07, 2001	St. Paul, MN
April 07, 2001	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
April 12, 2001	Apple Valley, MN
April 14, 2001	Madison, WI
April 14, 2001	Blaine, MN
April 17, 2001	Eden Prairie, MN
April 21, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
April 21, 2001	Loves Park, IL
April 21, 2001	Cottage Grove, MN
April 28, 2001	Bloomington, MN
April 28, 2001	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
April 28, 2001	Tomahawk, WI
June 09, 2001	Eau Claire, WI
November 03, 2001	Menomonie, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Leonard Wagner, N9XJG, Secretary
E10262 Hootowl Drive Baraboo, WI 53913



The November 7, 2000 meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc. was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by club president Steve Schulze, N9UDO.

The minutes of the October 3, 2000 were approved. Bill Klinkner, N9KXX gave the treasurers report.

OLD BUSINESS: A new ad was given to BSSS for the club's hamfest August 11, 2001. No definite plans or date yet for the club's annual holiday party. Discussion about offering classes next year was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS: None

Buck night was not held. Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. to allow the club to participate in a tabletop exercise with the Sauk County Emergency Government with a tour of the EOC following the exercise. The one hour exercise was an excellent opportunity for the staff of the EOC to understand what YTARC could offer in an emergency and the club learned what more had to be done preparatively.

Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Madison, WI
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 3rd Tue.	Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
(September through April)	
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat.	Bloomington, MN
Monthly, Last Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(except December)	
Monthly, Last Sat.	Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)	

Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

We need a lot of updates from a lot of VE teams. Please use the email link provided so prospective examinees will know of your sessions. Check your group's listing. Thanks. Fees will change beginning January 1, 2001. See below for information. Page Updated December 15, 2000

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS

Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walk-ins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Got your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html> or <ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2001, ARRL/VEC EXAMS WILL REQUIRE A TEN DOLLAR FEE. Other VECs may increase fees, amounts may vary. Exam fees change annually. See QST, W1AW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. ARRL/VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2000 test fee at \$6.65. A \$6.65 fee will be collected from applicants seeking to upgrade using a physician's certification to waive the Morse code examination.

FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or

NEXT MEETING: Holiday Party - time and place to be announced

The following members and guest were present:

Bob King	W9QOQ	Baraboo
Mike Hoier	KA9PSL	Wisconsin
Dells		
Marti White Eagle		Wisconsin
Dells		
Peter Sweeney	WD9JIB	Reedsburg
Maurey Gurgel	KA9TBU	Reedsburg
Raymond Matlosz	N9MLZ	Reedsburg
Art Kleefisch	W9WSS	Baraboo
Don Evenson	K9JYX	Baraboo
Dave Estes	KB9QDE	Reedsburg
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ	Reedsburg
Bill Hommel	KA9QFJ	Baraboo
Steve Schulze	N9UDO	Baraboo
Leonard Wagner	N9XJG	Baraboo
Bill Klinkner	N9KXX	Sauk City

CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.shtml>

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC

We cannot always carry the full detailed listing to the testpoint sites every month. Please see last months BSSS for the full listing. The following are changes reported to us since that listing.

EAU CLAIRE, WI.

January 13, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the South Middle School, 2115 Mitschner Avenue, Eau Claire, WI.

June 9, 2001 at the Eau Claire Hamfest from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

For information contact: Steve Bluem, KA9OMY, (715) 839-6509 or ka9omy@arrl.net Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

MENOMONIE, WI. March 31, 2001 and November 3, 2001: The Menomonie area hams will conduct VE exams for all classes of licenses. The location will be the UW Stout's Millennium Hall (The new Communications Building) at the corner of Broadway and 10th Avenue on the UW-Stout campus in Menomonie Wisconsin. Walk-ins only. Arrive between 9 and 11 a.m. For information, contact Jim Ley, NX9F, (715) 235-3998 (H), or (715) 232-1397 (W).



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SWAPFESTS



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Milwaukee, WI
Michael R. Plack, KB9SCH
Oak Creek, WI

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P. O. BOX 1072 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

**HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING!
MADISON SWAPFEST**

April 8, 2001

Mandt Community Center
400 Mandt Parkway • Stoughton, WI
Doors open at 8 a.m.

Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY
P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890
Swapfest Information Line: (608) 245-8890

**SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
SWAPFEST 01**

2001 ♦ July 7

(Held every July)

American Legion Park

Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI
(414) 762-3235 Extension: Ask for Verne
P. O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172

SEWFARS SWAPFEST

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SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2001

8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Setup Starts at 6:00 A.M.

For more information, call (414) 835-7035

LAKESHORE HAMFEST

AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST

Manitowoc County Expo

Intersection of Hwys 42-151 and I-43 on City Highway R

Saturday, May 13, 2000

For more information, call:

Red, N9GHE • (920) 84-3733

Dick, N9QFY • (920) 682-9264

ManCoRad Radio Club • P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204

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HAMFEST 2001

YOUR SPRING FAVORITE I

Sunday, March 18

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920-563-6381
Evenings

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Fest**



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Lake County Fairgrounds / Grayslake, Illinois
Radio, Electronic, Computer Swapfest

03/25/01

North Shore Radio Club / Box 1066 Highland Park, IL / 60035

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club

HAMFEST 2001

Saturday, June 9, 2001

For Information Contact:

Jim Staats KG9RA at 715-838-9108

P.O. Box 1867 Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867

<http://www.ecarc.org> w9eau@ecarc.org

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E-Mail: w9udu@w9udu.org

Contact us or keep
checking our web
site for details on
upcoming events.



**Ozaukee Radio Club
23RD ANNUAL RADIO AND
COMPUTER SWAPFEST**
Saturday, May 5, 2001

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center
Intersection of Highway 60 and County I
Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,
5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222
Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club
W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive • Cedarburg, WI 53012

Circus City Swapfest

Sponsored by The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Saturday August 11, 2001 • 7 am - Noon
Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI

Vendors • Concessions
Camping • Free Parking
Tail Gate Area

\$4 - Advanced
\$5 - At Gate
8 Foot Tables - \$5

Steve Schulze, N9UDO
(608)358-2313

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX
(608)643-6908/643-6453

<http://members.baraboo.com/sschulze/hamfest.htm>

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

AUCTION

February 27, 2001 • 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street
Eau Claire, WI

CONTACT: Steve Hart, KA9OMC
E616 810th Ave. 715-665-2374
Knapp, WI 54749

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BP-202 for Radio Shack; PB-34 NiMH & PB-13 NiMH for Kenwood; EBP-22 NiMH for Alnico;
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